

## **Public Bicycle Transportation Committee Fiscal Year 2013**

**Committee Members:** Fran Van Treese (Chair); John Bamberger, Richard Fein, Dorie Goldman, Karen Kowles, Eve Vogel

**Frequent Guests:** Glenn Barrington, Gilford Mooring

The Committee is responsible for two areas; Public Transportation (which in large measure means buses) and bicycles (which includes pedestrians and motorized bikes).

### **Public Transportation**

1. The Committee has worked hard to preserve transportation to South Amherst. In particular we are concerned about the #32 bus, which has been the sole means of public transportation during the summer. In a related matter, we have been concerned about keeping the interior neighborhood stops in addition to the main spine on 116/West Street. We have received information consistently and the ridership on the #32 is increasing.
2. The Committee has been active in securing bus transportation for the Amherst Survival Center.

### **PBTC Bicycles**

*The Committee is very interested in:*

1. **North Amherst Bike Path.** There are lighting, wetland and access issues to be resolved.
2. **Covered Bike Shelters:** to protect bikes in inclement weather. The main problems are money and location. This resolution was passed unanimously: ***“The PBTC encourages the Town of Amherst to build covered bicycle shelters to encourage people to use bicycles for transportation.”***
3. **Safety:** We have explored public education as a means for advising both cyclists and motorists about their obligations, rights and mutual need for safety. Public perception of bicyclists and biking are part of the issue. Police enforcement is not being pursued.

*Also: “The Amherst PBTC supports efforts to ensure safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in crossing the intersection of Route 9 and Maple Street in Hadley and the improvement of bus stops on Route 9. We urge that these efforts be expedited. Amherst citizens have made the PTBC aware of this significant problem.” Passed 5-0*

We have spent considerable time working with Mr. Mooring and the Public Works Committee about accommodating bicycles and pedestrians on Pine Street and East Pleasant Street.

The Mill Street Bridge: The PBTC would like it to be open, but only to bicycles and pedestrians in keeping with the heavy use by pedestrians and families of the park-like recreational Puffers Pond environs.